AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated, by inserting the underlined matter and deleting the matter lined through. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

In the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

An outside Plant Construction Management (OSPCM) system simplifies and mechanizes many aspects of operating a facility, such as a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC). ~~The OSPCM relies on historical data on similar jobs to generate bids detailing tasks and material needs. The contractors add pricing and other information to the bid and this data is input to the OSPCM system.~~ The OSPCM system performs a configuration function and this data is input to the awarded contract which entails breaking the job into its constituent tasks, sequencing the tasks, prioritizing the tasks, and scheduling the tasks. The OSPCM system completes the scheduling task by assigning the tasks to supervisors and/or to outside contractors. The OSPCM system automatically manages the materials required for tasks by determining what and when it is needed, ordering what is available from within inventory, and ordering necessary materials from outside providers. When a task is completed, the contractor accesses the OSPCM system and marks the task as completed. The OSPCM system then forwards invoices to the voucher system for those cases where work is completed as designed. ~~For work completed with changes in design or billing, files are sent to the supervisor for approval or for disapproval and comments. After a task is approved for payment, the OSPCM system forwards the invoice to a voucher system for payment. The OSPCM system samples completed tasks for inspections and schedules them appropriately. The OSPCM system also handles employee time and payroll, with employees entering time directly into the OSPCM system.~~